

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8

REF: USUN 2917

1. REGARDING QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE FOR SOUTH
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AFRICAN TROOPS (PARA 7, REFTTEL), DEPT 0ELIEVES THAT
SCHEDULE IN PRETORIA 4565, WHILE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE,
WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO SOUTH AFRICANS. MOREOVER, WE
DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION THAT EVEN SWAPO WOULD EXPECT
(REGARDLESS OF THEIR DEMANDS) BULK OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS
TO BE OUT OF NAMIBIA WIT;IN EIGHT WEEKS AFTER AGREEMENT
TO SETTLEMENT PACKAGE AND THAT WITHIN TWELVE WEEKS

SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP NUMBERS WOULD BE DOWN TO 500 (OR LESS). WHILE WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW SCHEDULE SHOULD BE REVISED, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LENGTHENING THE TIMETABLE BY TWO MONTHS WOULD BE EXCESSIVE.

2. WE APPRECIATE THAT SUBJECT OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN CONTACT GROUP AND THAT BRITISH AND CANADIANS WERE REACTING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF PRIOR STUDY OF WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH PELCOVITS PAPER,

WE WERE SURPRISED THAT UK OPPOSES THIS CONCEPT "IN PRINCIPLE." FROM THE OUTSET OF OUR CONSIDERATION OF HOW TRANSITION TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED, WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE AT HIS DISPOSAL A BODY WHICH COULD:

- A) MONITOR SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL;
 - B) MONITOR RETURN OF SWAPO MEMBERS;
 - C) PREVENT INFILTRATION OF ARMED UNITS FROM SWAPO OR OTHERS;
 - D) MONITOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND ACTUAL VOTING; AND
 - E) BE PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS THAT CONDITIONS OF UN MANDATE ARE BEING VIOLATED.
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WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT INSIST THAT MEMBERS OF THIS BODY WEAR BLUE HELMETS AND BE STYLED AS "PEACEKEEPING FORCE, "BUT WE CANNOT ENVISAGE PEACEFUL TRANSITION PERIOD WITHOUT SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL FORCE IN PLACE FROM THE BEGINNING. NUMBERS OF UN TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED DURING PLANNING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN CG AND UN SECRETARIAT.

3. HOPEFULLY PRESENT IMPASSE WITH UK CAN BE OVERCOME THROUGH FURTHER EDUCATION OF BRITISH SIDE, WHICH IS COMING ACROSS AS HOLIER THAN THE POPE IN TAKING SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, IF, FOLLOWING REFLECTION, BRITS MAINTAIN THEIR OPPOSITION TO PHASED SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL AND INSERTION OF A UN FORCE, RESULTANT DANGERS TO ENTIRE NAMIBIA EFFORT MAY JUSTIFY HIGH-LEVEL US DEMARCHE IN LONDON. REQUEST USUN'S THOUGHTS ON THIS POINT.

4. AS REGARDS SITE FOR TALKS (PARA 3 REFTTEL), WE RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH NEW YORK AND WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSING THAT TALKS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON. WE CAN SEE SOME ADVANTAGE, HOWEVER, IN

SELECTING SOMEWHAT LESS VISIBLE SITE WITHIN WASHINGTON
AREA AND WE ARE LOOKING INTO VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES.

5. DEPT HAS NOTED WITH CONCERN SEVERAL RECENT STATEMENTS
BY ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN WHICH WE DO NOT REGARD AS
CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE EXPLORATORY PROCESS.
FOR INSTANCE, WE REGARD STEYN'S STATEMENT ON ELECTORAL
ROLE FOR SWAPO (PRETORIA 4628 AND 4646) AS UNHELPFUL.
USUN SHOULD MENTION THIS PROBLEM IN CONTACT GROUP AND SEEK
CONCURRENCE OF OTHER MEMBERS TO ASKING SAG TO RESTRAIN
STEYN FROM FUTURE STATEMENTS OF THIS TYPE. RATHER THAN
APPROACH IN PRETORIA, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT CONTACT GROUP
MEMBERS MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO SAG UN MISSION. VANCE

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